

honor Dr. Grinstead for his commitment to their church and its congregation.

RECOGNIZING LT. COL. ELIZABETH J. MAGNERS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Col. Elizabeth J. Magners for her 60 years of exemplary service with the Civil Air Patrol.

Elizabeth Magners, born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, graduated from the Civil Air Patrol National Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, in 1969. She furthered and completed her training at the Air University Extension Course Institute program for Civil Air Patrol officers at Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama. On June 20, 1944, Elizabeth Magners joined the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and thereby commencing what is now 60 years of service. She served in the volunteer civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force in various capacities, including commander of the General Carl A. Spaatz Squadron of Boyertown, Pennsylvania. She was a Public Affairs Officer of the Pennsylvania Wing and served on projects and assignments at Northeast Region and National Headquarters levels where she attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Elizabeth Magners has received numerous awards and honors during her six decades of service, including the CAP's Distinguished Service Award, the Exceptional Service Award, the Meritorious Service Award and numerous Commanders Commendation certificates. In addition to her service awards, she was also honored by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania for her 24-year radio show entitled "Wings Over Boyertown" and her unit publication, "The Question Mark."

Elizabeth is a past president of the Lehigh Valley Chapter 274 Air Force Association, a life member of the U.S. Naval Institute, member of the Reading Chapter of the U.S. Navy League and a member of the 148th Fighter Squadron of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Lt. Col. Elizabeth J. Magners for her 60 years of outstanding and dedicated service to her community, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the nation.

CONGRATULATING DICK AND JOANN LOSEE ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate two wonderful people and long-time family friends from the Honorable Chris Cannon's district in Utah, Dick and JoAnn Losee, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary on the Fourth of July.

Dick was born on Christmas Day in 1932 in Los Angeles, California. At the age of ten Dick

and his family returned to their original hometown of Salt Lake City, Utah. It was there where young Dick developed a passion for music that became a prominent part of his life, actively participating in school bands and parades, and, after graduating from Jordan High School, accepting a job at Daynes Music Company in Provo, Utah.

In Provo, Dick became involved with a band that performed in dance halls and private parties, leading him to the love of his life, JoAnn. Searching for the best dance band around for her junior prom at Provo High School, JoAnn was introduced to Dick. The momentous meeting marked the beginning of beautiful things to come.

Like many young men of his generation, Dick was drafted into the U.S. Army to fight in the Korean war. Before heading overseas, Dick obtained an overnight pass and married his sweetheart shortly after midnight on the Fourth of July, 1954, at Fort Ord, California.

Instead of being sent to Korea, Dick was stationed in Germany, where JoAnn joined him in March, 1955. In Germany, Dick was assigned to the 2nd Armored Tank division and assigned to be in charge of the Army Dance Band in Western Germany.

In February, 1956, the happy couple returned to Provo, where Dick studied music and business at Brigham Young University, while JoAnn joined her mother in opening Bullock's Jewel Box that same year. On July 17, 1956, they were blessed with their first born, Richard. Six years later, on September 20, 1962, their beloved daughter Vanessa was born. Their children and grandchildren are a source of great pride and love for the couple.

After a short time selling life insurance, Dick joined JoAnn and his mother-in-law in the jewelry business, starting Bullock and Losee Jewelers. After 30 successful years, the original business was sold in 1985. However, Alard and Losee jewelers was later established in Provo, Alard being Vanessa's married name.

Dick and JoAnn have incorporated service into every aspect of their lives. Their dedication to their community is truly outstanding, actively participating in the Provo/Orem Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Freedom Festival, Scouting, the Miss Utah Pageant, Kiwanis Club, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Additionally, the Losees are deeply committed to Utah Valley State College (UVSC), where JoAnn received the first UVSC President's Medallion, in honor of her highly commendable activity in community and civic affairs.

Mr. Speaker, Dick and JoAnn's dedication to each other, their family and community is admirable and inspiring. On the eve of their 50th Anniversary, I wish them nothing but the best in the years to come.

RENEWING THE DREAM TAX CREDIT ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, as we mark June as National Homeownership Month, it is imperative that we look for ways to help more of our citizens to achieve the American Dream of homeownership.

Home ownership is the cornerstone of the American Dream. For millions of American families, this dream is still just out of reach. This is especially true for families living in economically distressed neighborhoods, where the costs of renovating existing buildings or that of new construction frequently exceed the market value of homes in the community, making it impossible to obtain mortgage financing. This leads to further deterioration in declining neighborhoods, and forces families to look elsewhere for the opportunity to own their own home.

My friend ROB PORTMAN and I introduced H.R. 839, the Renewing the Dream Tax Credit Act, which would provide a tax credit for single-family home ownership. Modeled after the successful low-income rental housing tax credit, this proposal would allow states to allocate federal tax credits to developers and investors who provide single-family homes for purchase by qualified buyers in qualified areas. The program will also help stabilize troubled urban neighborhoods, while spurring new construction and rehabilitation in rural areas targeted for economic development.

The bill would allow states to provide developers or investors tax credits up to 50% of the combined costs of acquiring, building, and renovating properties for sale to qualified buyers. The tax credits would be carefully targeted to areas in need of economic growth incentives, and to families who need help buying a home. States will have flexibility in allocating the tax credits. The available tax credits under the program are capped at \$1.75 per capita, with no state to receive less than \$2 million in credits.

This proposal has the support of a broad coalition of groups with substantial expertise in the housing industry, including the National Association of Home Builders, the National Conference of State Housing Agencies, the National Association of Realtors, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and a number of non-profit organizations, including the Enterprise Foundation, the Local Initiative Support Corporation and Habitat for Humanity International.

H.R. 839 could open the door to affordable homeownership for as many as 50,000 families annually. It would not only provide affordable housing, but is expected to create up to 120,000 jobs annually. H.R. 839 enjoys broad bipartisan support, with 288 co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives. House passage of H.R. 839 would be a fitting tribute to National Homeownership Month, bringing the American Dream home to tens of thousands of working American families.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS VICTOR SEMOS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute to the life and the memory of Chris Victor Semos. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, a lawmaker, a humanitarian, and a leader in the community of God and the community of mankind. He was unflagging.

It was my privilege to serve with Chris Victor Semos in the Texas State capitol in Austin.

Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1967, he served the people of his district and his state with honor, integrity and distinction for 16 years. A lawmaker's lawmaker, he served as the Chairman of the Claims Committee, the Business and Industry Committee, the Dallas Legislative Delegation. He was untiring.

His sense of timing was always perfect. Chris Victor Semos was born in 1936. This was also the year of the Texas Centennial. This was not by chance or happenstance, for he believed he was destined to celebrate Texas and all things Texas. It was the delight of Chris Victor Semos' heart to have the honor of serving as the Chairman of the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission. Because of the energy and the energy he devoted to the promotion and the celebration of Texas' 150th anniversary, his peers bestowed upon him the aptly descriptive sobriquet "The Father of the Texas Sesquicentennial." He was indefatigable.

Chris Victor Semos also made a lasting impact on Dallas. For 12 years the people of Dallas County as the County Commissioner. He was elected to the office in 1983. During his tenure, he poured every ounce of his considerable energy into building roads and bridges around the county. He was unfaltering.

Because of his commitment to his community, Chris Victor Semos was the recipient of countless awards. His honors, his awards and his decorations are too vast to name. Emblematic of the esteem in which he was held by his peers and his community, the Oak Cliff Lion's Club honored Chris Victor Semos with the Humanitarian Award. It was not an honor that he took lightly. As a 50-year member of the Oak Cliff Lion's Club, he promoted the welfare of others and championed reforms that improved the lives of his fellow man and fellow woman. He was unrelenting.

Chris Victor Semos was filled with joy when he was united in holy matrimony with Anastasia, his bride of 37 years. His heart was filled with joy with the birth of each of his three daughters, Mary Katherine, Victoria Evelyn, and Kristina Anastasia. They were his greatest mark of distinction. His love and devotion for his wife and his daughters were unceasing.

Mr. Speaker, after a lifetime of devoting his life to serving others, Chris Victor Semos has gone to his eternal rest. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to former Texas State Representative Chris Semos. Moreover, I join with the city of Dallas and the State of Texas in mourning the loss of an outstanding citizen and friend.

THANK YOU, MARGARET SIMS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Sims. Over 1,252 of our soldiers have a new friend in Ms. Sims, who a year ago began writing to a soldier she did not know from her hometown of Gulf Breeze, FL. At 19 years of age and a rising sophomore at the University of West Florida, Margaret epitomizes patriotism in the United States. Margaret not only corresponds with many of the troops in Iraq on a regular basis

in something she calls "Project Appreciation," but also stands outside the local grocery store during the weekends gathering signatures for "Thank You" banners. She has been known to gather 400 signatures per banner, sending them to troops in places like Tikrit and Kirkuk, as well as making care-packages filled with cans of tuna, crackers, and toiletries for a lucky few that have become her regular recipients. She has been honored in the Pensacola News Journal and throughout the First District of Florida, but it is time that she is recognized for her efforts by Congress.

Patriotism is not only shown by our soldiers in the field but by our people at home. Her love for our country and her support of the troops is the true essence of patriotism. She shows our men and women in the field how valued and supported they are, giving them hope and faith from back home. By sending letters and care packages, and by taking the time to gather signatures on a banner from people throughout her community, Ms. Sims is making a true difference in America, a model patriot for all of us to admire.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress I would like to thank Margaret Sims for her patriotism and support of our troops. What we need in this country are more young men and women like her.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ACT

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 70th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act on June 26, 1934. Since the passage of this momentous legislation, federal credit unions have consistently proven themselves to offer high quality financial services at low costs to over 85 million Americans.

As members of this body, many of us are well aware through first-hand knowledge of the importance of federal credit unions. Owned by their members, federal credit unions are financial institutions that embrace the true spirit of volunteerism. Federal credit unions are run by volunteer boards of directors that are elected by their members, and encourage the value of saving regularly to build economic security for the future.

The entire premise of the credit union movement is the commitment to values that we can all embrace. Folks with modest means who oftentimes are overlooked by other types of financial institutions are assured of access to financial services thanks to America's credit unions. Driven by a deeply held commitment to member service rather than financial profits, credit unions offer not only low-cost financial services but also much-needed financial education to some of the most neglected sectors of our society.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act seventy years ago. In conjunction with all the fine work of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU), the trade association that exclusively represents the interests of federal credit

unions, there is no doubt in my mind of the benefits Americans across the nation will continue to gain because of the good work of our nation's federal credit unions for many more years to come.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4548) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes,

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, from its inception in 1996, the United Nations' Oil-for-Food Program (OFF) was susceptible to political manipulation and financial corruption. Trusting Saddam Hussein to exercise sovereign control over billions of dollars of oil sales and commodity purchases invited the illicit premiums and kickback schemes now coming to light.

But much is still not known about the exact details of Oil-for-Food transactions. That is one reason my Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations convened a hearing on April 21st to help pierce the veil of secrecy that still shrouds the largest humanitarian aid effort in history.

This much we know: The Hussein regime reaped an estimated \$10.1 billion from this program: \$5.7 billion in smuggled oil; and \$4.4 billion in oil surcharges and kickbacks on humanitarian purchases through the Oil-for-Food Program. There is no innocent explanation for this.

At the hearing, the Subcommittee heard the program, while successful in many ways, was riddled with corruption and the independent efforts of the Iraqis to investigate the fraud was being stifled by the Coalition Provisional Authority.

We want the State Department, the CPA, the intelligence community, and the U.N. to know there has to be a full accounting of all Oil-for-Food transactions, even if that unaccustomed degree of transparency embarrasses some members of the Security Council.

Two months ago, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan assured me he wants to get to the bottom of this scandal and restore faith in the ability of the U.N. to do its job. Subsequently, the Secretary General appointed Paul Volcker to lead an independent panel to look into the Oil-for-Food Program.

While Mr. Volcker brings expertise and prestige to the task, we are concerned about the slow pace of the U.N. investigation. The Volcker panel has just announced the hiring of senior staff. Nevertheless, they continue to say an interim report, possibly this summer, will address the conduct of UN employees and allegations about the Secretary General's son's involvement.

But we also need to know more than what just happened at the U.N. We also need to know what happened at the US Mission. We